

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9 are amended. Claims 2 and 7 are cancelled. Claims 13 and 14 are new.

2. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-14 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kobayashi (JP2003-158727) and Tom (US 2004/0189861). The combination of Kobayashi and Tom does not disclose or suggest that the hinge comprises a washer having at least one cam and said washer is configured to rotate when said hinge allows movement of the body parts between the first and second position relative to each other and where the at least one cam is configured to actuate said electric switching means as recited in Applicant's claim 1.

In Kobayashi the video camera (101) has a liquid crystal display (103) attached to the camera (101) by hinge (108) (Paragraphs [0014]-[0015]). The hinge (108) is equipped with a rolling mechanism that interacts with a switch (213). The switch (213) changes according to the angle of rotation of the LCD panel (103). The switch (213) has a contact (214) for detecting when the LCD screen (103) is turned to the lens (106) side of the video camera (101) and a contact (215) for detecting the other location (i.e. when the LCD screen is facing away from the lens (106)). (Paragraph [0053]).

Contrary to what is suggested by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the electrical contact (214) in Kobayashi is not equivalent to the cam recited in Applicant's claims. As shown in Figure 7 of Kobayashi the contact (214) in conjunction with contact (215) are nothing more than part of the electrical switch (213). As can be seen from Figure 7, the switch (213) is a multi-contact rotary switch having two contacts (214, 215) and an arm for engaging the contacts. The arm slides along the flat surface of the contacts (214, 215) to complete the electric circuit through the switch. The rolling mechanism of Kobayashi is nothing more than a rod that extends from the hinge (108), similar to an axle connected to a wheel of a car, to rotate the arm of the switch (214) where the hinge (108) is comparable to a wheel on one side of the axle and the arm is

comparable to the other wheel on the other side of the axle. Nowhere does Kobayashi disclose or suggest that the hinge comprises a washer having at least one cam and said washer is configured to rotate when said hinge allows movement of the body parts between the first and second position relative to each other and where the at least one cam is configured to actuate said electric switching means as recited in Applicant's claim 1.

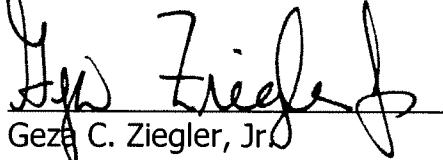
Combining Kobayashi with Tom fails to remedy the above defect. All that Tom discloses is that the hinge (10) may contain a mechanism that senses the difference positions of the angle (11), enabling the device (1) to change modes depending on the hinge position or angle (11). (Para. [0028]). Thus, claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Kobayashi and Tom. Claim 6 is patentable over the combination of Kobayashi and Tom for reasons similar to those described above with respect to claim 1. Claims 3-5 and 8-14 are patentable at least by reason of their respective dependencies.

It is further submitted that the combination of Kobayashi and Tom does not disclose or suggest the features of claims 13 and 14.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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22 Dec 2006

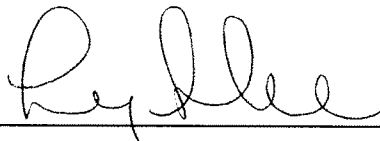
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